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28 JULY
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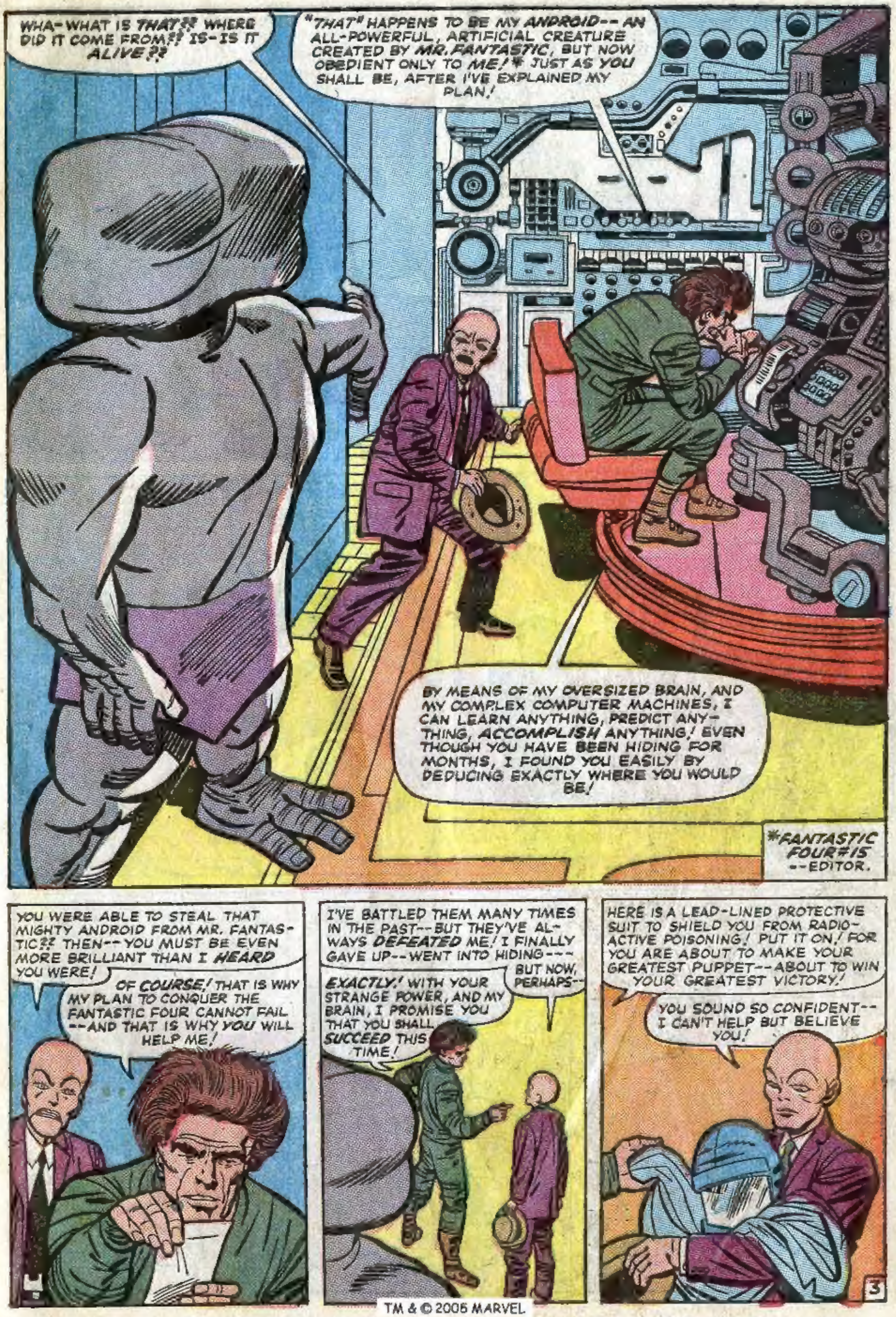

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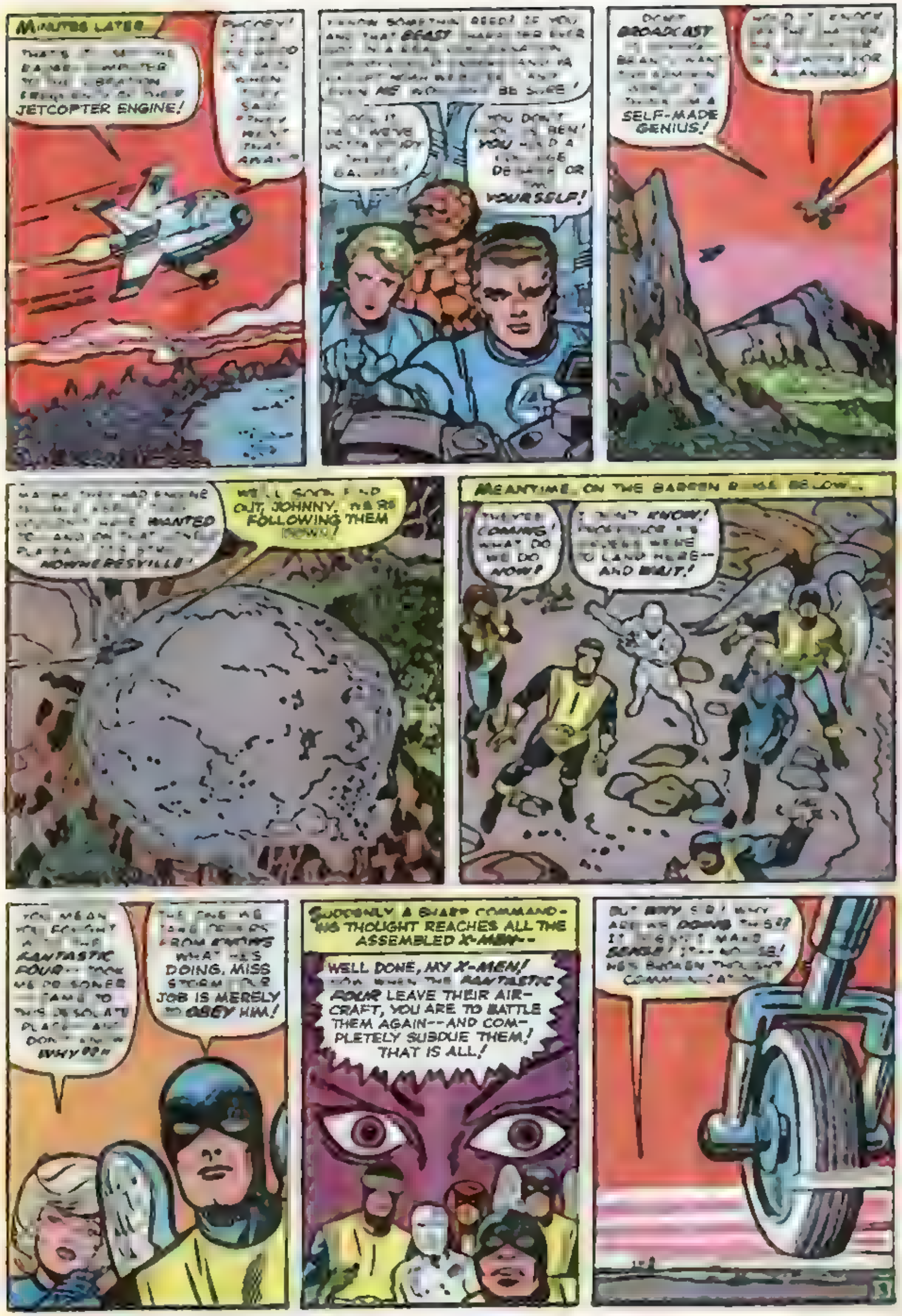

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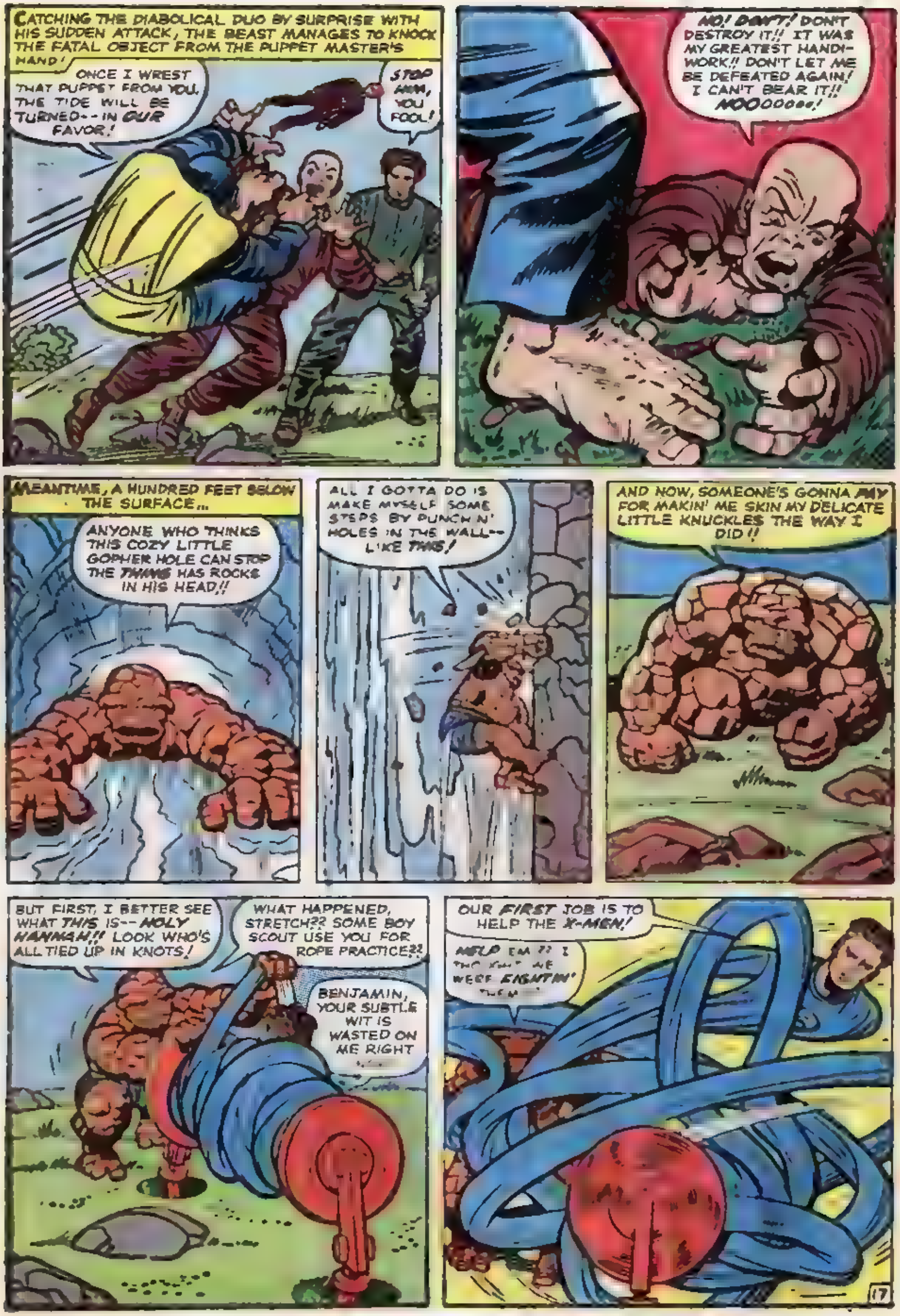

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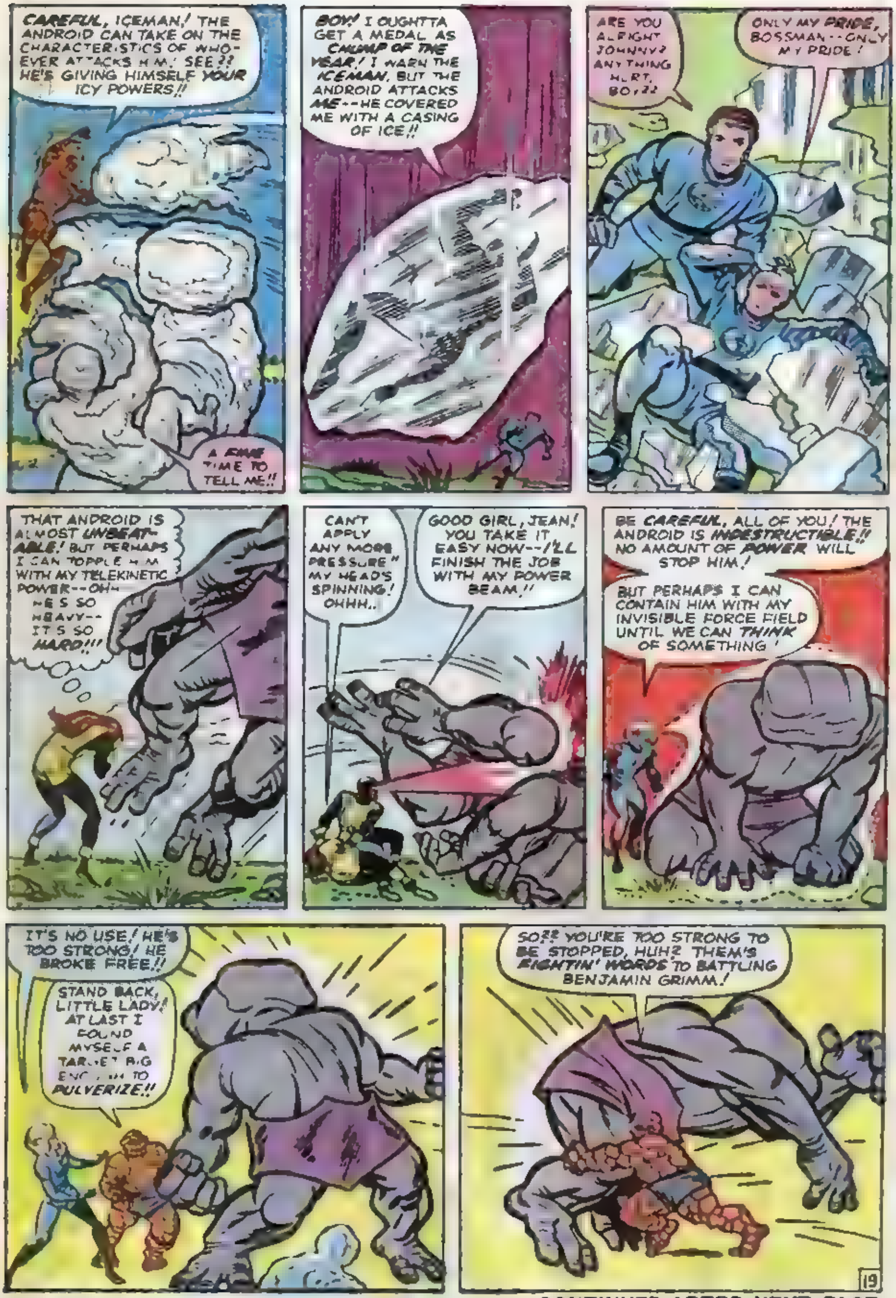

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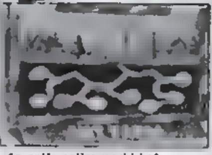

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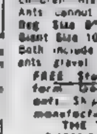

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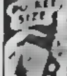

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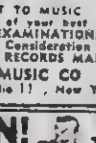

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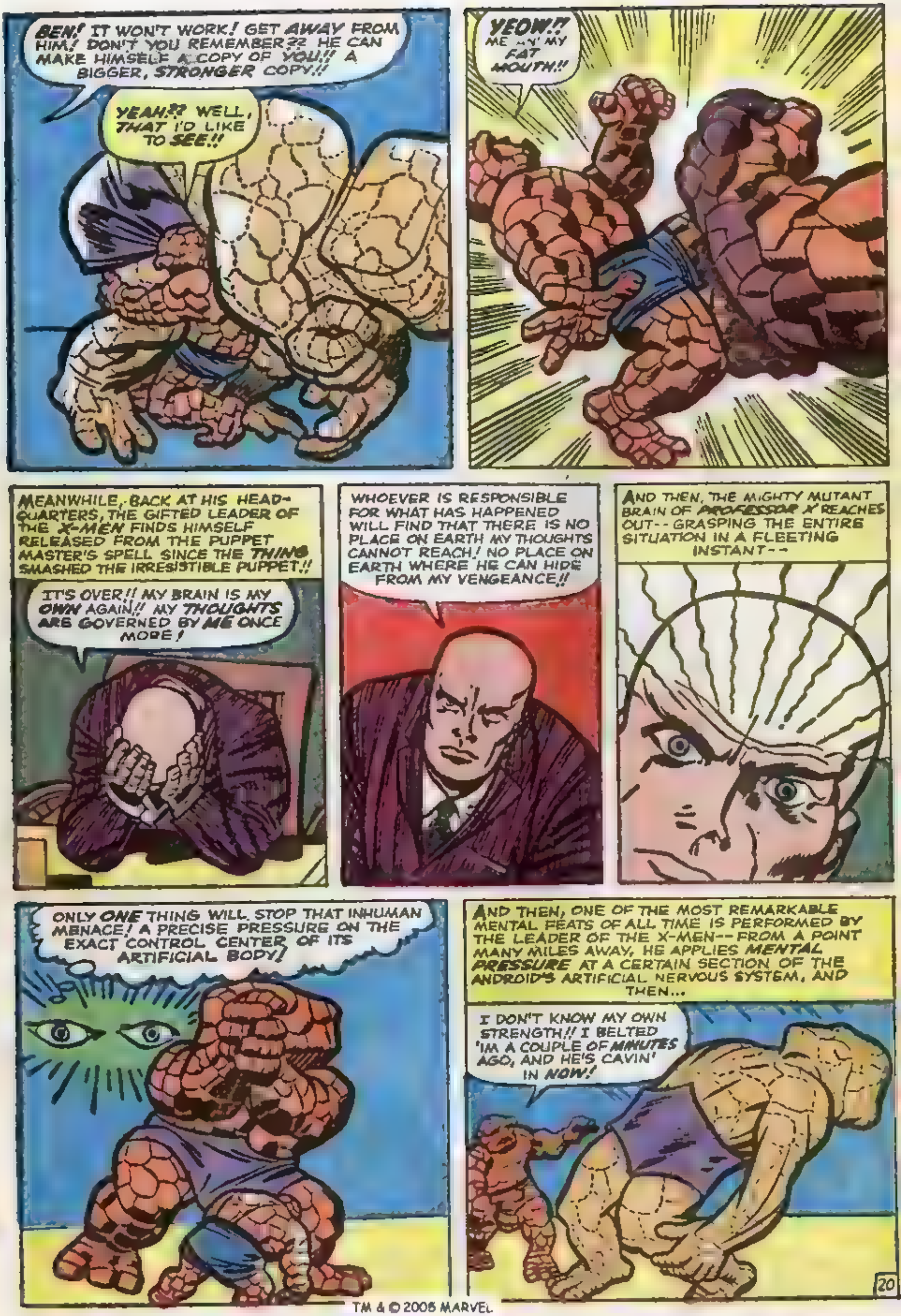

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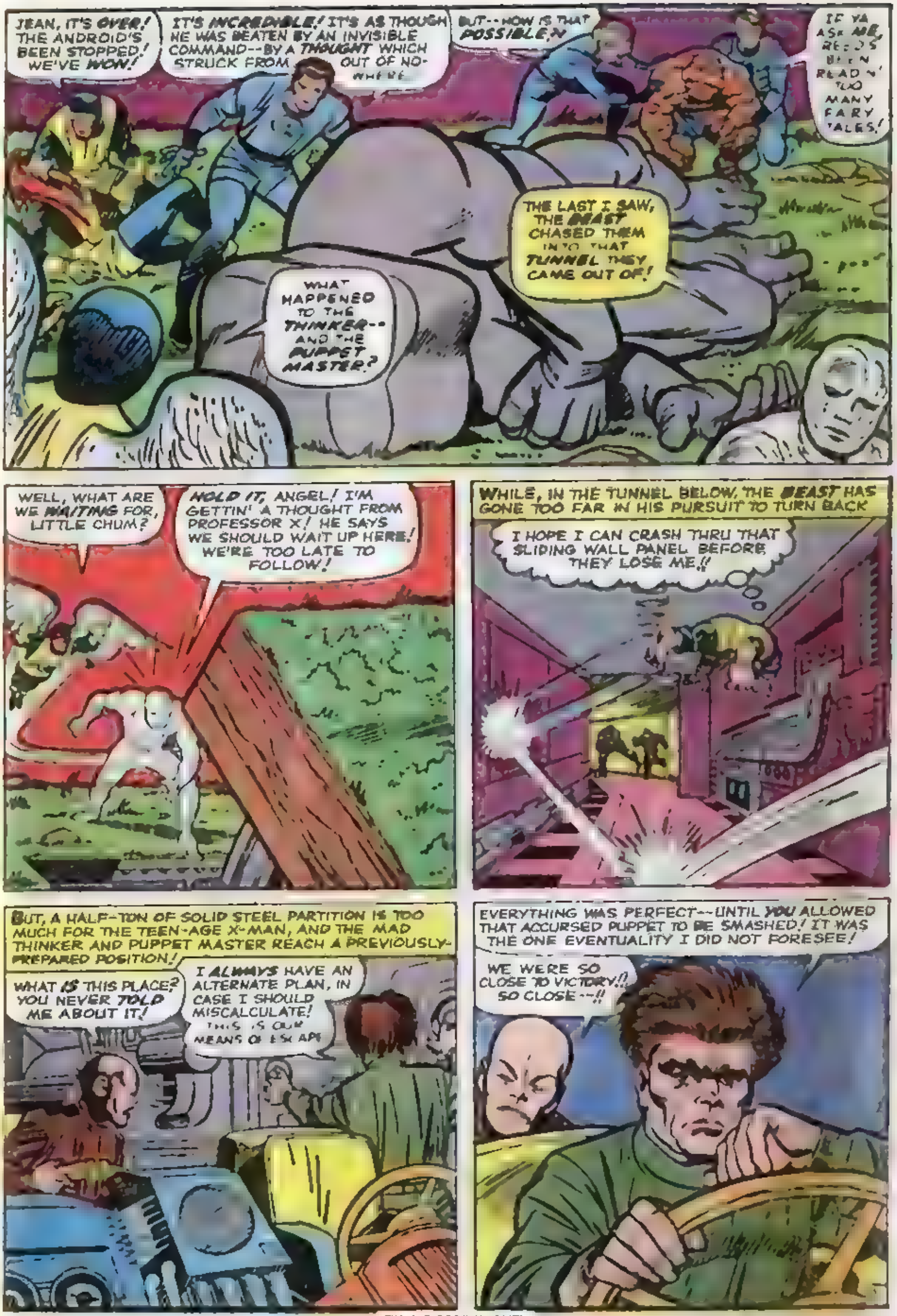

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Address YOUR letters to
LEE and KIRBY
FANTASTIC FOUR
THIRD FLOOR
655 MADISON AVE.
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

FANTASTIC FAN PAGE 4

Dear Stan and Jack,

Was it really so long ago that Marvel Comics weren't Marvel Comics . . . in any sense of the words? Has it been such a long time since "Amazing Adult Fantasy" was the only one of your group worth reading? It can't have been that long, and yet not a trace of those not-so-good, not-so-old days can be found in Amazing Spider-Man, F.F., and all the others. I especially recall the colorless, dreary inking with which those miserable excuses for stories were endowed; it sent shivers down my spine simply because it looked so melancholy. At any rate, I don't know when the changeover occurred from that tripe to the grand stuff you're turning out today, but in my opinion it's the best thing to have happened to the comics industry.

Galen G. Peoples, 2516 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, Cal.

And you're not getting any argument out of US!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I have praise for all your comics. I feel, though, that one thing must be driven into your minds. Though I have always liked your comic STRANGE TALES, the latest issue (#118) has finally brought me to my senses. Dr. Strange is the worst, nuttiest, most unbelievable character in the history of comic books! I say you should kick him out of the mag! Oh yes – the story "The Return of the Wizard" in this issue was excellent.

Neal Preston, 40 E. Oak St.
Chicago 11, Ill.

Forget the Wizard, Neal! After what you said, it's too late to make up!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I read your Fan Pages every month and find them very enjoyable. But I don't understand why every fan is raving only about Kirby's art and Stan's writing. (Don't get me wrong—you're both great!) It's just that nobody ever mentions the lettering! It must be pretty hard lettering those comics every month. I think the fans should give Artie Simek and Sam Rosen some encouragement, too. So, let's get going, fans!

Robert Cormier, 37 Valley Road
Nahant, Mass.

You mean there really IS an Artie Simek and Sam Rosen??

Dear Stan and Jack,

Though I really love your mags I still have a few complaints. I wish you'd quit this "Marvel Age of Comics" you've got going. It's not up to you—it's up to the readers and fans to decide whose age this really belongs to. There are some other comic companies in the business too, you know!

Robert Malisani, 1338 Dupont St.
Toronto 4, Ont., Canada

Okay, so let them make up their own age! It's a free country!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I am in the Army now and have been for the past two years. Until I came into the Army I had very little interest in comic books. At the ripe old age of 22 it might seem a trifle odd to some people that I indulge in such highly fanciful literature. However, your publications have revitalized my interest in these magazines and I eagerly look forward to purchasing all of your works. Generally speaking, I thoroughly enjoy your magazines. I believe your characters *have* character and sometimes *are* characters! I would like to know what happened to my heroic hero the HULK. He is one of my true favorites. I thought he had his own magazine. I know this is an overworked phrase, but keep up the good work!

PFC Thomas Jennings, RA 11402129
1626 V Corps
APO 79, New York, N. Y.

YOU wanna know what happened to the Hulk?? The AVENGERS want to know! The F.F. wants to know! Even his HAIRDRESSER doesn't know for sure!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Long live "long underwear" characters! Long live Stan and Jack! Long live the MARVEL AGE OF COMICS!

Louie Stover, 24 King St. W.
Cabourg, Ontario, Canada

And, in our own shy, modest way we say: Amen!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I like the way you're throwing in adjectives around the credits like "Darling Stan Lee," "Dazzling Dick Ayers," etc., and the remarks in the parentheses like "Don (when does he eat?) Heck." Guess it just proves that you guys can make a joke out of anything, except that your comics are setting a new standard of quality for comics. Who can doubt that we are now in the MARVEL AGE OF COMICS? Sloppily typed by . . .

Dave (When will he ever be satisfied?) Bibby
40 Hillside Ave., Verona, N. J.

Dave, Smilin' Stan and Jolly Jack thank you!

Dear Stan and Jack,

You have finally done it—you have created the best F.F. story in F.F. history. I am referring of course to FF #25. The Thing and the Hulk make good enemies. What with Reed deathly ill and Johnny in the hospital and Ben being beaten to a pulp, I don't see why Sue isn't hysterical by now. I can hardly wait for the next issue of FF to find out what happens. Now for STRANGE TALES #119. The Human Torch story was terrific. I sure would hate to be Doris Evans right now. Dr. Strange is really coming along. SGT. FURY #6 was good. You really teach some good lessons in your books. By the way, is Nick Fury ever going to marry Pamela Hawley? (You're asking *us*? . Ed.) X-MEN #4 was terrific. I don't think that Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch are bad at all. The Avengers and Captain America are great! I feel sorry for Captain America because of Bucky, but I hope Rick Jones will become his partner.

Norma Ryan, 1700 Tartan Way
Louisville 5, Ky.

So what else is new?

Dear Stan and Jack,

It all started about two weeks ago when I was still an avid follower of one of your competitors' magazines. I was over my boyfriend's house when his mother came in the door with a pile of mags—MARVEL of course. I had nothing better to do so I picked up one and started to read. Brother, I tell you I'll never touch another comic that doesn't advertise THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS! The mag? Oh, it was TALES OF SUSPENSE—"Iron Man vs. the Angel." I go to high school and still like your mags!

Harry St. Ours, 2537 Quantico Ave.
Baltimore 15, Md.

Wait'll you go to college, Harry—you'll LOVE 'em!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I've been reading comics for years. About six months ago, after I had stopped buying them for a while, a friend lent me a copy of F.F. All I can say is I'm sorry I missed the first year's issues. The bowling team I'm on in my junior league has been dubbed the Fantastic Four. However, we're in third place. Why don't you send Ben Grimm over? We really could use him. On second thought, don't send Ben. There can only be four men on a team so they'd throw me out!

Bert P. J. Benenson, 18 Marshall St.
Irvington, N. J.

Didja ever see The Thing bowl, Bert? He doesn't ROLL the ball—he flips it with his thumb like a kid playing marbles!

CONTINUED . . .

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Dear Stan and Jack,

I've read SPIDER-MAN from #1 to #10. I've read STRANGE TALES from #14 up. I've read every issue of TALES TO ASTONISH, F.F., IRON MAN, AVENGERS, X-MEN, and THOR. I'm 18 years old and still read comics... although only Marvels, and I'm not going to quit! F.F. is by far the greatest comic in the solar system. When I say solar system, I mean it! Aliens from other planets probably buy Marvels too!

Johnny Fitzgerald, 504 Linden Ave.
Sunnyvale 9, Calif.

Waddaya mean "probably"??

Dear Stan and Jack,

Now that you've given the Invisible Girl more powers (issue #22), nobody can vote her out of the F.F. These are the reasons why I like the F.F.: 1) Excellent villains, 2) Goods plots, 3) You make them appear human, 4) Good art work (although you come up with a lemon once or twice, most of your artwork is good!) So on the whole your mag is very good, and if anybody tells me to stop buying it, I'll sock 'im in the nose! Us Fantastic Four readers would rather fight than switch!!

Matthew Thompson, 220 B. 71st St.
Arverne 92, N. Y.

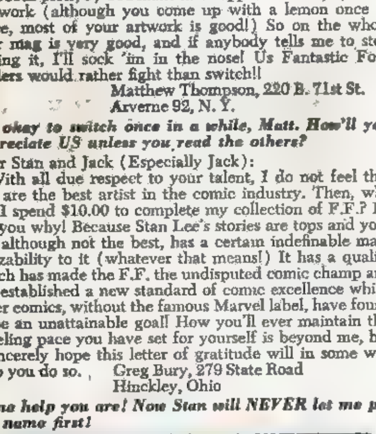
It's okay to switch once in a while, Matt. How'll you appreciate US unless you read the others?

Dear Stan and Jack (Especially Jack):

With all due respect to your talent, I do not feel that you are the best artist in the comic industry. Then, why did I spend $10.00 to complete my collection of F.F.? I'll tell you why! Because Stan Lee's stories are tops and your art, although not the best, has a certain indefinable magnetizability to it (whatever that means!) It has a quality which has made the F.F. the undisputed comic champ and has established a new standard of comic excellence which other comics, without the famous Marvel label, have found to be an unattainable goal! How you'll ever maintain this grueling pace you have set for yourself is beyond me, but I sincerely hope this letter of gratitude will in some way help you do so.

Greg Bury, 279 State Road
Hinckley, Ohio

Some help you are! Now Stan will NEVER let me put my name first!



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

—Okay, guys and gals, it's bullpen time again! So, if Stan will stop pounding that squeaky typewriter for a while, and if Jack will slow up his pencil for a sec, we'll get down to business . . .

—First of all, how about Chic Stone's inking? Pretty terrif, eh? In keeping with our policy of rotating inkers occasionally, we've shifted Geo. Bell to Sgt. Fury—which Dazzling Dick Ayers will be pencilling for a while—to give Jovial Jack Kirby a chance to get a few hours sleep now and then. In fact, if we don't keep our eyes on our roving staff every minute, we sometimes forget what they're working on ourselves!

—If YOU make a boo-boo, nobody's apt to know it except your own friends—but when WE fall on our faces, WOWEE! The whole world knows what lunkheads we are! And we really came out with another mighty Marvel clinker again! In F.F. #25, featuring the first part of the now-famous THING-HULK battle, we show the Hulk in his normal identity, as scientist Bruce Banner. But, do we CALL him "Bruce"? Oh no! That would be too simple! In front of a quarter of a million fans, we call him "BOB" all over the place!! And, to make things worse, we made the SAME mistake a few issues BEFORE that—and just got thru apologizing for it! Well, there's only one thing to do—we're gonna take the cowardly way out. From now on his name is ROBERT BRUCE BANNER—so we can't go wrong no matter WHAT we call him! (Unless it comes out "Seymour"!).

—Personal to all our frantic fans: Each day our mail gets heavier and heavier! While we're happy as all get-out to receive such an enthusiastic response from you, poor Stan and Jack are getting eyestrain trying to keep up with your letters. (For, as we've promised so many times in the past, we really DO read each and every bit of mail). So, as a favor to us, please keep your letters as short as you can—and write or print clearly. And another thing—we feel guilty when some of you thank us for reading your letters. We feel WE should thank YOU for being loyal enough and considerate enough to take the time to write to us—and our gratitude is most sincere.

—And now, it's "What's New At Marvel" time . . .

—SPIDER-MAN #14 (on sale now) has a lulu of a yarn for you. Stan and Steve have created a brand-new type of arch-villain called "The Green Goblin" (No kiddin'!) and to make sure you're getting your 12¢ worth, Spidey also battles "The Enforcers" (remember them?) as well as our roving, rampaging HULK (who could FORGET him?!)! If you've nothing better to do, why not get a copy?

—And, it's official now—Marvel will issue a few new annuals this summer. FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #2, featuring "The Secrets of Doctor Doom!" SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #1. And, a real surprise: MARVEL ANNUAL #1, featuring as many of our super-heroes and villains as we can crowd into its 72 pages! More info about these 25¢ editions in later ishes.

—Have you heard? IRON MAN #55 (now on sale) has a terrific 5-page bonus section featuring a special feature which so many of you have requested—"All About Iron Man." Try not to miss it.

—DAREDEVIL #2 is on sale now—drawn by famous Joe Orlando, and featuring the thrilling battle between the man without fear and Electro, the awesome menace who almost defeated Spider-Man! Until D.D. gets his own letters page, we'd appreciate your sending your comments right here to the F.F.

—Also on sale now are the following Marvel mags: THOR #105, featuring a real action-packed wing-doozy of a-battle between the Thunder God and as dangerous a pair of foes as ever gritted their teeth—The Mysterious Mr. Hyde and The Cobra! As for TALES TO ASTONISH #57, it had to happen sooner or later! Our king-sized Giant-Man and the Wasp battle none other than the Amazing Spider-Man in a saga filled with surprises! Finally, remember Dr. Doom's three colorful henchmen in F.F. #23? Well, they return again to plague The Human Torch in STRANGE TALES #122—and Delicate Dick Ayers really went to town on this one!

—Okay—we've kept you in suspense long enough! Now for the next FANTASTIC FOUR! Here's a hint—Remember the Red Ghost and his Super Apes? Well, we may just refresh your memory a bit! Also, the F.F. has the fight of its life against the Yancy Street Gang—or, IS it the Yancy Street Gang? This one has more plot twists than a corkscrew! And you know us. No dream stories or imaginary yarns. If we say it's gonna happen, it happens!

—And now, all the best from the merry Marvel gang! We'll be here again next ish—so join us. We hate to talk to ourselves!

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Albert Dorne — probably the greatest money-maker in the history of commercial art. At the height of his career, he began a full-time search for people who like to draw.

He's Looking for People Who Like to Draw

TODAY HUNDREDS of men and women who never thought they could be artists are working happily at easels and drawing boards, making pictures, and getting well paid for it. They all can thank Albert Dorne, a famous artist who devotes almost his full time to helping other people become artists.

Some of the people Dorne has helped

Herb Smith was a payroll clerk. Soon after he started studying with us, he landed an art job with a large printing firm. This was four years ago; today he's head artist for the same firm.

John Busketta is another. He was a pipefitter's helper in a big gas company. Today he still works for the same company, but as an artist in the advertising department, with a big increase in pay.

Harriet Kuzniewski was bored with an "ordinary" job before she heard of Albert Dorne. Today she does high-style fashion illustration in New York.

With the right training, Wanda Pickulski gave up her typing job to become fashion artist for a local department store.

John Whitaker of Memphis was an airline clerk two years ago. Recently he won a national cartooning contest and was signed to do a newspaper comic strip.

Long before Albert Dorne started looking for people who like to draw, they came to him for advice and help. Since he alone could only help a few of these people he called together America's most successful artists—men like Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb, Stevan Dohanos and Al Parker.

A Plan to Help Others

He said: "All over America, there are people who like to draw, who could be turned into good artists. Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years? I'm suggesting a new kind of school—a home-study art school that would give talented people the best professional art training, no matter where they live."

The famous artists agreed. Taking time from their busy careers, they spent several years creating a remarkable series of art lessons covering every aspect of drawing and painting. They illustrated their lessons with over 5,000 "here's-how" illustrations. The lessons start from scratch and cover every skill a top artist needs. Finally, the famous artists developed a wonderful way to give each student personal correction and advice all through his training.

Albert Dorne is not surprised by the success of his students. "The art field is growing. We keep getting calls from all over the country, asking us for practical, well-trained students who can step into full-time or part-time art jobs."

Famous Artists Talent Test

To find others with art talent worth developing, the famous artists created a 12-page talent test. Thousands paid $1 for this test, but now the School offers it free and will grade it free. If you show talent on the test, you will be eligible for training by the School. No obligation. Simply mail coupon. It might be your first step to an exciting, well-paid career in art.

America's 12 Most Famous Artists

Norman Rockwell	Fred Ludekens
Jon Whitcomb	Ben Stahl
Al Parker	Robert Fawcett
Stevan Dohanos	Austin Briggs
George Giusti	Harold Von Schmidt
Peter Helck	Albert Dorne

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